Negligence in landing of aircrafts

†*90. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of the negligence in the operation of planes from international airports, two dozen planes were landed in emergency situation in the year 2007;

(b) whether the landing of two planes was made on 22 April, 2007 at Indira Gandhi International Airport at an interval of 15 minutes and these two planes narrowly escaped collision on the runway;

(c) whether guidelines have been issued to stop such types of incidents; and

(d) how many such cases have been investigated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, on 22.04.2007, there was a breach of separation at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport between two departing planes.

(c) Yes, Sir. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are regularly formulated and revised depending upon Air Traffic and Safety requirements. The following steps have been taken to enhance safety level and prevent recurrences: (i) modernisation of Air Traffic Services, (ii) implementation of Safety Management System at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to mitigate the risk of accident/incident, (iii) implementation of flexible use of airspace for reducing traffic congestion in airspace, (iv) modification of SOP/ co-ordination procedure for simultaneous runway operations. As per the new procedure at Delhi, one runway is used exclusively for arrival and the other for departure.

(d) 04 incidents occurred during simultaneous runway operations at IGI airport in 2007. All these cases have been investigated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Forgery by Carver Aviation Academy

*91. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) which probed the functioning of Carver Aviation Academy in Baramati, Maharashtra found forgery in the manner in which flight test certificates were being issued to aspiring pilots;

(b) if so, the details of its findings;

(c) whether it is also a fact that DGCA decided to suspend the operation of said Academy and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government reversed the order of the DGCA despite police warning that the scandal has grave security and criminal implications; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Reports of malpractices by the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) of M/s. Carver Aviation Academy were duly investigated by Dierctorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Investigation revealed irregularity in the functioning of the academy, including improper logging of flying records, issue of fake certificates, non-compliance or rules and procedures, unauthorised night - flying, manipulation of records and lack of proper monitoring system.

(c) to (e) Pending investigation, the licence of the academy was suspended by DGCA. The CFI status of Capt. Ashim Taxali was withdrawn. However, in view of the fact that the management of the institute themselves detected the malpractices and reported to the local police authorities and keeping in view the career prospects of trainees enrolled with the institute, the suspension of the licence was revoked after assurance from the academy of a strict monitoring system. DGCA has been directed to ensure that these systems are in place.

Grounding of overweight Air Hostesses

*92. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that overweight air hostesses of State-run carrier of India have been grounded; and

(b) if so, the number of such air hostesses grounded and what will be their future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As on February, 2008, there are 22 airhostesses of erstwhile Indian Airlines, 16 airhostesses of erstwhile Air India and 5 airhostesses of Alliance Air who are groudned due to being over weight. Such cabin crew are asked to reappear for weight check periodically and are assigned flight duty once they conform to the prescribed weight lmits. Cabin crew who continue to remain overweight are evaluated by a duly constituted Medical Board and based on its assessment and recommendations, further action is taken as per the Terms of Employment.

Criteria for setting up new airports in the country

*93. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to develop 500 new airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details as to number of airports per State and also what is the criteria for selection of different airports for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Considering the robust growth in civil aviation in the country in recent years and likelihood of this trend to continue in near future, efforts are being made to augment airport infrastructure all over the country. Two greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad in Public Private Partnership (PPP) are under consideration and expected to be commissioned shortly. Delhi and Mumbai airports have been restructured and are being expanded and modernized in Public Private Partnership (PPP).